

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

City Light seeks to produce a long-term power supply strategy that is in the best interest of the public and reflects the values of the region it serves. In the IRP process, City Light actively seeks to engage its customers and other stakeholders that may be affected by City Light's future resource plans. In addition to explaining how City Light plans to generate electricity to meet projected needs, its team endeavors to listen to customer comments, encourage questions and ideas, knowing that many of them have never considered these issues previously. In addition to engaging them in discussions about resource futures, part of the job is to listen for barriers that make customers less able to be involved in their own power supply future.

These public engagement activities are designed to:

- Inform the public about the IRP process
- Ask for feedback and encourage general questions about City Light
- Raise awareness of the importance of long-term resource planning and how City Light meets customer's power supply needs
- Involve customers, regional experts and other stakeholders during the IRP process and generally encourage them to be more engaged in the utility's future plans
- Assist City Light in developing its long-term resource plan recommendations to City Council and the Mayor

City Light created a communications plan to organize its overall public outreach strategy related to the IRP. When developing this plan, City Light actively sought ways to address race and social justice concerns and to provide more opportunities for participation by underserved communities.

The communications plan focused on engaging customers in the process, gathering interested individuals to public events, and informing customers about ways to learn more about the IRP. The main events for the 2016 IRP were an online presentation for the general public, presentations at Seattle's Neighborhood District Council meetings, and IRP stakeholders panel meetings.

### Public Meetings

For the 2016 IRP, City Light approached the City's pre-existing neighborhood district councils and asked to present at their meetings. City Light made presentations at two neighborhood district councils: Southeast District on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 and Central District on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. These short presentations gave an overview of the IRP and the IRP process, and encouraged the audience to view the online presentation. City Light also produced and distributed flyers for these events. The flyers gave a very brief overview of the IRP and encouraged readers to visit the IRP website.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, City Light hosted a live video presentation over the internet, advertised as the “IRP Online Open House”. City Light opted to deliver an online presentation as a means to provide digital equity, reducing the burden on interested parties to attend a meeting, allowing participants to join and learn from their homes, offices, cellphones, or to watch a recording at a later time.

The online presentation covered the definition and purpose of an IRP, the process, and the major considerations that affect City Light’s future resource choices. Participants were able to ask questions that were answered live by City Light employees. The presentation had almost 70 online attendees, making it City Light’s most widely attended online event.

### **IRP Stakeholders Panel**

One of the primary vehicles to incorporate public feedback in City Light’s 2016 IRP was working with an IRP stakeholders panel. The IRP stakeholders panel is an advisory group of volunteers that provides feedback on a technical level. City Light invites stakeholders of diverse backgrounds to participate. While the IRP stakeholders panel is a valuable source of ideas and suggestions, it does not have formal policy-making responsibilities.

The stakeholders panel includes representatives of City Light’s retail electric customers and other local stakeholders, along with experts drawn from groups that are actively involved in regional energy issues.

### **2016 Stakeholders Panel Members**

- Cameron Cossette, Nucor
- Christian Taylor, Boeing
- Jeremy Park, University of Washington
- Henry Louie, Seattle University
- Wes Lauer, Seattle University
- Mike Ruby, Envirometrics, Inc.
- Steve Gelb, Emerald Cities Collaborative
- Rebecca Wolfe, Sierra Club
- Tom Eckman, Northwest Power & Conservation Council (NWPCC)
- Paul Munz, Bonneville Power Administration

City Light held four in-person stakeholders panel meetings and one webinar in the 2015-2016 time period to inform the stakeholders panel on progress and findings, and allow stakeholders to provide input and suggestions. City Light also engaged informally with stakeholders to answer questions, provide additional information and receive feedback.

### Summary of public and stakeholders meetings

TYPE	DATE	MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS
Stakeholders	June 17, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ IRP process</li> <li>■ IRP input assumptions</li> <li>■ Climate change preliminary modeling</li> </ul>
Stakeholders	November 4, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Demand forecast</li> <li>■ Resource adequacy study</li> <li>■ Resource portfolios</li> <li>■ Conservation Potential Assessment</li> </ul>
Public (Southeast District)	April 27, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ What is an IRP</li> <li>■ How is a long-term plan selected</li> <li>■ How to join the discussion</li> </ul>
Stakeholders Webinar	May 12, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Portfolio analysis results</li> <li>■ Preferred portfolio recommendation</li> <li>■ Action plan</li> </ul>
Public (Online Open House)	May 19, 2016 and available on internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ What is the IRP</li> <li>■ IRP Resource choices</li> <li>■ IRP considerations</li> <li>■ How to provide feedback</li> </ul>
Stakeholders	June 2, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Portfolio analysis results</li> <li>■ Preferred portfolio recommendation</li> <li>■ Action plan recommendation</li> <li>■ Climate change preliminary modeling review</li> </ul>
Public (Central District)	June 9, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ What is an IRP</li> <li>■ How is a long-term plan selected</li> <li>■ How to join the discussion</li> </ul>
Stakeholders	August 4, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Race and Social Justice and Environmental Equity</li> <li>■ Review of 2016 IRP process and results</li> <li>■ Recommendations for 2018 IRP process</li> </ul>

All materials presented are available on the IRP website, <http://www.seattle.gov/light/irp>

### Feedback received

In summarizing the views of the public participants and stakeholders, their commitment to the environment is clear:

1. There is broad support for a continued aggressive environmental stewardship program.
2. Their focus continues to be the investment by the utility in the aggressive pursuit of energy efficiency with an interest in how newer technologies such as solar, electric vehicles and other distributed resources may impact the utility and how it interacts with customers in the adoption of these resources.

Taking into consideration this feedback, City Light presented the 2016 IRP preferred portfolio and the two-year action plan to City Council for review. On August 1, 2016 the Seattle City Council approved the 2016 IRP and two-year action plan.